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Las Vegas SUN

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Columnist Paula Del Giudice: Lake Mead perils discussed

PAULA DEL GIUDICE has been an outdoors freelance writer, author and photographer for 13 years. Her column appears Wednesdays.

CARP FOUND found to have high levels of PCBs and DDT in their tissues. Plutonium found in the water. Almost every week there are stories reporting new contaminants in Lake Mead -- source of our drinking water.

The Nevada Wildlife Federation, long interested in Nevada's water quality issues, has put together a panel of experts who will address these issues. The discussion is slated Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the West Sahara Library, 3700 West Sahara (just west of Fort Apache).

Allen Biaggi, deputy director of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection in Carson City over Nevada's water pollution control, mining regulation and reclamation, and air pollution control programs, will give an overview of the Las Vegas Wash and Lake Mead water quality issues. He will also present an overview of the Water Quality Forum.

Dr. James LaBounty, the manager of the Ecological Research and Investigations Group for the Bureau of Reclamation in Denver, will talk about Lake Mead's water quality and the Las Vegas Wash intrusion (a.k.a. the "plume").

Over the last nine years, LaBounty has focused his research on the Boulder Basin of Lake Mead, because it is the source of water supply for 22 million users and a location of significant water recreation.

Kay Brothers will provide an overview of the status of endocrine disruption in carp and perchlorates. Brothers is the director of the Southern Nevada Water Authority Resources department.

Local environmental activist Jeff Van Ee will provide an overview and status of the Water Quality Citizen's Advisory Committee.

Following the overviews provided by the panel of experts, there will be time to ask questions.